

Message Text

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47

ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 IO-12 ADP-00 COA-02 EB-11 OIC-04 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 ACDA-19 AEC-11 AGR-20 CG-00

COME-00 DOTE-00 FMC-04 INT-08 JUSE-00 NSF-04 OMB-01

TRSE-00 SCI-06 CEQ-02 RSR-01 /182 W
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R 261310 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5270

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L TANANARIVE 0567

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, XA, MA, OAU

SUBJ: LOS- OAU AND AFRICAN POSITIONS

REF: STATE 73822

BEGIN SUMMARY: EMBASSY REQUESTED FONMIN SEEK RETENTION OF FLEXIBILITY IN ANY OAU RESOLUTION ON LOS. LEARNED FONMIN PUSHING CHANGE IN PREVIOUS MALAGASY SUPPORT OF 12- MILE TERRITORIAL WATERS LIMIT FOR SECURITY REASONS. END SUMMARY.

1. PURSUANT REFTTEL, I APPROACHED MALAGASY FONMIN RATSIRAKA APRIL 26 TO URGE THAT MALAGASY DEL TO OAU MEETINGS SEEK RETENTION OF FLEXIBILITY FOR INDIVIDUAL STATES IN ANY OAU RESOLUTION ON LOS.

2. I GAVE HIM COPY OF RECENT USIS WIRELESS FILE SUMMARY ON LOS FROM SECRETARY'S ANNUAL REPORT, AND NOTED THAT U. S. LOS OBJECTIVES STATED IN GENERAL TERMS IN ORDER MAINTAIN
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FLEXIBILITY. HE AGREED WITH THIS STATEMENT, EXCEPT TO NOTE WRYLTY THAT TWELVE MILES IS VERY SPECIFIC LIMIT FOR TERRITORIAL WATERS.

3. I BELIEVE HE UNDERSTANDS NEED FOR FLEXIBILITY IN ANY OAU RESOLUTION ON LOS. HE COMMENTED IN FACT THAT AFRICAN STATES HAD BEEN MORE FLEXIBLE IN PAST THAN EITHER LATIN AMERICAN OR DEVELOPED COUNTRIES IN THIS FIELD.

4. SINCE THIS WAS FIRST TIME I HAD DISCUSSED LOS WITH FONMIN AND IT SEEMED USEFUL EXPLORE WHETHER PREVIOUSLY EXPRESSED MALAGASY POSITION UNDERGOING ANY CHANGE AS RESULT

LAST YEAR'S SHIFT OF GOVT, I TOOK OPPORTUNITY TO DRAW HIM OUT ON SUBJECT. HE SAID THAT HE IS PERSONALLY IN FAVOR OF TERRITORIAL WATERS LIMIT IN EXCESS OF TWELVE MILES FOR SECURITY REASONS. HE EXPLAINED THAT MADAGASCAR, AS BIG ISLAND WITH LONG COASTLINE, FINDS IT IMPOSSIBLE PROTECION

SECURITY AGAINST SUBVERSION OR INTRUSION FROM SEA WITH ONLY 12- MILE LIMIT SINCE IT DOES NOT OFFER SUFFICIENT WIDTH TO ALLOW ADEQUATE WARNING. WHEN I QUESTIONED WHETHER

WIDER TERRITORIAL SEA WOULD PROVIDE KIND OF ENHANCED SECURITY HE SEEMED TO BE SEEKING, HE AGREED MADAGASCAR COULD NOT HOPE PROTECT ITSELF AGAINST BIG POWERS, BUT ALSO HAD TO LOOK TO CONTINGENCY OF FUTURE CONFLICT WITH SOME SMALLER AFRICAN POWER IN DECIDING ITS POLICY ON THIS ISSUE. TO MY QUERY AS TO WHAT LIMIT MADAGASCAR WOULD SEEK, HE SAID THIS WOULD HAVE TO BE SETTLED BY COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, BUT MADE IT CLEAR HE CONSIDERED 12- MILE LIMIT NO LONGER MALAGASY POSITION.

5. HE ALSO NOTED THAT MALAGASY POSITION ON ZONE OF COASTAL STATE JURISDICTION OVER RESOURCES BEYOND TERRITORIAL WATERS DIFFERS FROM U. S. POSITION. THIS, OF COURSE, NOT NEW AND DERIVES FROM FACT THAT MADAGASCAR HAS VERY NARROW CONTINENTAL SHELF ALONG EAST COAST. HE SAID GOMR WANTS CRITERION TO BE ONE OF DISTANCE RATHER THAN DEPTH.
MENDENHALL

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